

MARTINSBURG GAZETTE.

BY EDMUND P. HUNTER.

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POETRY.



ECCLIASTASTES, CHAP. XII.

Remember now thy Maker,
In the season of thy youth,
While thy limbs are full of vigor,
And thy soul of love and truth,
While the days of evil come not,
Nor the years when thou shalt say,
I have no pleasure in them,
As they swiftly glide away.

While the sunlight is not darkened,
Ere the moon and stars grow dim,
While no gloomy cloud hangs o'er thee,
Lift up thy thoughts to him;
And while yet there is about thee
Not a sign of death's dark hour,
While thine eyes have all their brightness,
And thy voice hath all its power;

While thy courage doth not fail thee,
Nor thy strength doth yet decline,
While the day in all its glory,
Still around thy path doth shine,
Ere like the snowy blossoms
On the almond's waving bough,
Are the rain and scattered tresses,
That float around thy brow;

While quick and firm as ever
Is thy step upon the mountain,
While the wheel is at the sistrum,
And the plecter by the fountain;
Ere thy doom hath yet gone forth,
Or the fatal word is spoken,
Ere the silver cord be loosed,
Or the golden bowl be broken;

Remember thy Creator,
In the morning of thy days;
Oh! think of him with gladness,
And speak of him with praise;
So shalt thou feel no terror,
When thy dust to earth is borne,
And unto God who gave it,
The spirit doth return.

VALUE OF BEAUTY.

Know'st thou not
That beauty will take gold? will have the tooth-
ache?
Will catch a fever?—that its peachy cheek
Will canker in the night?—that its sweet lips,
Palace of smiles, spasm doth compel to change
Their garish tenebrous for uncouth contortions?
That its fair dress of Pride—its velvet skin—
Humors will spot, discolor? that, in brief,
It is a thing of value vanishing
As feeble merchandise, which rates to day
Enormously—the next may go a begging?
And, worse than all, that its chief merit lies
In wishing, not possessing? coveted,
Of purchase measureless—obtained, worth nothing?
[SHERIDAN KNOWLES.]

MISCELLANY.

From the New York Mirror.

ELIAS FISHER, THE DOG PEDLAR.

The following history of a singular individual was communicated by an officer of the Navy, and its correctness is attested by the respectable editor of the Franklin Repository, published at Chambersburg.

"Some ten or twenty years ago, there lived near London, Franklin co., Pennsylvania, a poor decrepit widow, who had a son and a daughter. They were miserably destitute; and the mother by the most humble employments, which she performed in pain and sorrow procured a scanty subsistence for the children. Not unfrequently was she compelled to apply for aid, to save them from the pangs of hunger, and cover their infant limbs from the peltings of the pitiless blast, while they gathered from the lanes and woods, bark and branches of trees which had been rejected by woodmen, with which to warm the shivering limbs of their aged parent.

The girl was about ten years old and deformed by nature so as to render her incapable of performing laborious service. The privations consequent on her wretched condition had impressed on her infant face a melancholy and dejecting idiosyncrasy. But still she looked up to her mother for support and protection, with that love and resignation which perhaps, embraces with more intensity the objects of our attachment in proportion as fortune or fate diminishes the number, and "ghastly poverty" forces upon us the unwelcome truth that we have no real friends apart from our blood relations. Nor did poor Catharine indulge in idle, unavailing complaints, when hunger made her faint, and the icy winds pierced her unprotected frame. Still she placed her reliance upon her mother, that wretched, withering being, who lived merely because she hoped her children would be less miserable than if she were dead.

Elias was about twelve years old, and so much deformed that he walked like one afflicted with St. Vitus's dance. From the elbow down to the wrist the left arm projected at a right angle, while the hand hung helplessly from the wrist. The other arm was deformed, but less so than the left, and he could use them both to a limited extent. The muscles of his left cheek were drawn over the jaw-bone as if contracted by the palsy. The left eye shared in the deformity. One shoulder was an inch higher than the other. His speech, also, was affected to such a degree as to render him partially unintelligible to strangers. Nevertheless Elias possessed a mind of unusual acute-

ness for a boy in his class of life; a high native spirit of independence, which induced his mother to suffer many actual evils rather than except of public charity; a kind affectionate heart, and an amiability of temper, the equanimity of which nothing could ruffle or disturb.

The infirmities of the widow now assailed her so rapidly, that she was under the necessity of informing her children with many bitter tears, that she would be unable to save them from famishing the approaching winter; and that when cold weather came, they would all have to be dependent on the parish for support. The anguish caused by this communication speedily gave way to other feelings. The proud spirit of Elias was roused—he could not brook the idea of becoming a pauper, and he said—"Mother I can't bear that—I won't go to the poor-house. I can do something to help you and sister Catharine, and we'll try to get through next winter and then I'll be older, and we may do better yet." Poor little Catharine looked the very picture of despair; in the hopelessness of grief, she buried her face in the lap of her mother, and sobbed as if her heart would break.

But Elias had taken his resolution to "do something," and the only question was what he could do to save his mother and sister from starvation, or what he thought the greater calamity, the poor-house.

At that time Pennsylvania was flooded with yankee pedlars, who sold tin ware, wooden clocks, dry goods, and perhaps wooden nutmegs, and brown paper sausages. The great turnpike road leading from Philadelphia to Pittsburgh, passes through London; and inasmuch as London is situated at the foot of Tuscarora mountain, the pedlars were in the habit of stopping to water the horses before they begin to ascend, and sometimes remained there all night. A pedlar never loses an opportunity to swap a horse, or dispose to advantage his wares; and, therefore, Elias had numerous opportunities of observing the acuteness, almost intuitive, with which they drove a trade and the moral certainty of their getting the best of the bargain. Elias also judged that it must be a profitable business, or else so many would not be engaged in it; he was satisfied of the fact; when he saw them return from the West, laden with feathers, cotton, etc., and three or four horses alongside the wagon; much finer animals than the crazy, spavined beasts with which they had journeyed west. Besides, Elias had some vague suspicion that they carried concealed in some part of the vehicle, or on their own persons, a portion of the United States currency; but whether it consisted of paper or hard money he had no direct means of ascertaining.

However, Elias must do something; and after some hours of reflection, he determined to turn pedlar. But where was his wagon or his horse. He had neither materials, nor a cent to offer them, and his bodily infirmities prohibited him from carrying a pack on his back. But even if this difficulty was overcome, where were his goods on which to make the profits which were to alleviate the misery of his mother and sister? Nobody would credit a boy who looked a beggar, though he felt a man. Elias was in a dilemma; but he fancied he heard those that were alone dear to him on earth, moaning for bread, and the poor-house stared him in the face. "Necessity is the mother of invention," and Elias fell upon a plan which appeared to him to dissipate all the evils which threatened to crush him. He determined to make himself a large wagon, with wooden wheels, (he was too poor to buy iron,) and then, with a strap thrown across his shoulder, he could haul it across the country and haul it about among his neighbors. His resolution taken, he began to work, and being aided by a benevolent wagon-maker in the vicinity, the little machine, about the size of a market basket, was constructed and equipped for a trip among the farmers.

But now an obstacle, the most trying to Elias' sensibilities, had occurred, and he must overcome it, or all his hopes must vanish forever. He was well aware of the disadvantages under which he labored. He knew very well that a man obtains credit in proportion to his supposed ability to pay; and how could any body suppose a boy who had no clothes to cover him, who was looked upon as half an idiot, deformed and imbecile, and whose mother was in abject poverty, could pay for goods to fill such a cart as that? Nevertheless, Elias' intended expedition had been talked of in the village; his motives were known, and he had always borne a good character for honesty. He cast about how he should fill his wagon, for winter was approach-

ing and he was diffident of success; something must be done. He still hoped Heaven would help those who wished to do good. He resolved to apply to one of the village storekeepers who was least likely to refuse him, and throw himself upon his mercy. His story was favorably received and the incipient pedlar's wagon filled with refuse calicoes, tapes, thread, pins, needles, coarse combs, etc. And now behold the little lame pedlar, of twelve years old, with his leather strap across his shoulders, dragging his wooden wagon along the turnpike, seeing the first avenue to the country where he could find farmers and farmer's girls to whom to tell his story and sell his wares.

In a few days Elias returned, having disposed of his stock of merchandize at some profit, with which he relieved the immediate necessities of his mother, whose expenses in the interim were diminished one third, inasmuch as she had not to feed Elias. He promptly paid the merchant the price of his former venture, and with the residue of the profits not required for other purposes, he paid cash for a few articles, and then laid in the balance of his new stock on credit, and started again on his weary, lonely round. A few trips enabled him to set up for himself; that is, he paid for all his stock in cash, whereby he procured it at a lower price, and his profits were proportionally increased. In his peregrinations, he sometimes met with unfeeling persons, who ridiculed his homely apparatus and his ragged dress—telling him he was a beggar, and must have stolen the goods, &c. Elias would say, "he never stole any thing; that he knew he was poor; that he must do something to get better clothes before cold weather; and that the reason he dragged the ugly cart about was, that he might get them honestly."

But winter had now set in, and Elias was gradually sinking under protracted exertions, which had made visible inroads upon a slender frame and fragile constitution. With impaired health, he was unable to undergo the fatigue and exposure of a winter campaign; but he was too poor to be idle. His means would be exhausted by spring and he would have to begin anew.

But how to overcome the difficulty was the question. He had neither horses nor wagon. Ely hit upon an expedient which succeeded to admiration. He recollected that there was a pack of cur dogs infesting the village, some without acknowledged masters, other whom their masters, would no doubt, be willing to get rid of on any terms, short of being their executioners.—Ely's mind was fixed and he set about accomplishing his design with laudable celerity. A tongue with a staple at the end, was soon fixed in the wagon and two miniature whiffletrees were attached with the aid of his former patron, the wagon-maker. A few old pieces of rope supplied the harness and three curs, which had been a nuisance to the settlement, constituted the team. He experienced some difficulty in breaking the dogs to harness. They would lie down in sullen silence, or they would growl and snap at him, and sometimes try to run away. But Ely's habitual perseverance overcame all difficulties, besides, he was a severe disciplinarian. He well knew the meritorious properties of flagellation, and when soothing failed, he applied his leathern-thonged whip to such purpose that he soon subjected the unruly trio to obedience, and the steed of an Arabian sheik was never more obsequious to his masters will than were Tiger, Watch, and Ranger to that of Ely.

Thus accoutred, Ely sallied forth with a well filled wagon and high spirits. He was now relieved from the toil of dragging his wagon himself. He could extend his excursions beyond his former limits, and with greater rapidity. Besides, though on level or ascending ground he was obliged to walk, yet, where the road was descending, he could mount his wagon and drive to the level at a smart trot, thus resting his weary limbs, and at the same time making additional speed. The novelty of the retinue and Ely's filial affection became known, he soon disposed of his cargo and returned home once more. In the meantime the great object was accomplished. Those he loved were relieved from immediate want, and Ely became cheerful and comparatively happy. But he was not yet satisfied. The wagon dragged too heavy for the dogs. It was not sufficiently capacious for his enlarged trade, besides his rope harness was worn out. He determined to have a larger wagon with a cover to it, and a hump and lock to repel intruders, and spoke wheels with iron tires. In addition to this, he imagined, and no doubt with some accuracy, that he could purchase stock to some advantage and at a cheaper rate in the larger cities than in the vil-

lage; and so he extended his excursions to Chambersburg, and even to Baltimore! On the way he would trade with the farmers for butter, eggs, chickens, &c., which obtained a ready sale at the next town, and he would lay in a new store of merchandize to trade with the farmers he might meet on the way. Thus he made a double profit.

His entire equipage attracted attention in Baltimore, and his history becoming known, some benevolent merchants supplied him with a stock of goods at first cost, and perhaps, in some instances at less than cost, for many of the merchants of Baltimore have kindly hearts. But Ely, besides bringing a few dollars with him from London to meet contingencies, had greatly increased the value of his stock by traffic on his way to the city, and his wagon was not able to contain one half the merchandize he was able to buy at the prices offered. For a moment he did not know what to do, but his ingenuity did not fail him. He went about the city and purchased goods at the lowest price he could, paying cash as he went, and having taken them to the store of a merchant, who was peculiarly kind to him, had them boxed up and sent to London in a wagon, thus saving himself one hundred miles of a trip, in case he wanted to buy more.

He now determined to try his luck on the western side of the Tuscarora; and filling his wagon with a select parcel of goods he toiled up the mountain, occasionally aiding his dogs by pushing at the hinder part of the vehicle. At length he reached the summit, and for the first time beheld the noble cove which spreads along its foot at either hand, while immediately beneath him lay McConnellsburg, which looked in the distance like a fairy village; and to the south, rose in rugged grandeur, that most extraordinary and valuable production of nature, the Iron Mountain, attached to the Hanover Works.

After surveying the enchanting scene for some time in awkward astonishment, Elias mounted his wagon, and giving the whip to his dogs, soon began to descend at a merry pace. A few minutes brought him to McConnellsburg, but it was no place for his trade and he journeyed on to the west. He found frequent opportunities of selling buttons on the road, and as he exhibited his little merchandize he would sometimes exclaim: "Come ladies, buy something of me, I am not quite right and have an old mother and helpless sister to support, Come I can sell them cheaper than the merchants at Bloody Run or Bedford. They have to pay a per centage on the invoice, besides transportation, while I get mine at first cost and carry them myself. Here is a nice thimble very low, here is fine sewing silk two cents less in the skein than you can buy it in the stores, this calico you shall have a peppeny bit less than you can get it any where else, etc." This appeal seldom failed of effect, and many a benevolent matron and kindhearted Miss bought many an article which they could do without, with, I dare say the charitable intent of indirectly promoting the comfort of the boy, "that was not right, and his old mother and helpless sister." Where he lodged at night a piece of tape, a sidecomb, or something of the kind would pay his bill, and on the whole, Ely made one of his most profitable trips, and when he arrived in Bedford his stock was exhausted.

His team excited great curiosity here, and crowds of boys gathered about him, who insisted upon riding in the dog coach, which Ely very good naturedly assented to and drove them about until his dogs were worried and his patience was exhausted, when he remonstrated with them saying, "that he had travelled a long journey and his dogs were tired and so was he, and he wanted to give them rest and food." The rudest of the boys assailed him with bad language, calling him a crooked cub, a wry faced whelp, etc.; but Ely contented himself by retorting, "that if he was deformed he did not make himself, that God made him so, and he could not help it—that God could as well have made them deformed, as perfect and in that case he would not have laughed at them or treated them so rudely." The better bred boys took his part, and ever afterwards when he came to Bedford he was treated with marked kindness, and every body was the friend of the little dog pedlar.

It was on one of these trading excursions I first met him in Bedford. His appearance attracted my attention, and his story excited my sympathy. I often conversed with him, and found him candid, intelligent, and a tolerable observer of men and manners. He once told me he had always been treated politely by gentlemen. I asked him what he considered a gentleman. I discovered he had no distinct idea of

the qualifications necessary to constitute a gentleman, and he inquired, "What do you think makes a gentleman?" I answered, "genuine courtesy, dignified sentiment, and exalted courage. I never could think that the barber, the tailor, or the dancing master, could make a gentleman out of a blockhead or any other material; but I am, nevertheless, of the opinion that they can greatly embellish one of nature's noblemen."

Elias, with one of his peculiar grins, turned his chin to the left, until the crown of his head nearly came in contact with his right shoulder, and exclaimed in a broad laugh, "Well, I believe I have genuine courtesy, because I try to please every body, and am willing to be pleased by every body. I believe I have dignified sentiment, because I deal honestly and always tell the truth, but as for exalted courage, I think I dare not claim that, for when the saucy boys got on my dog-cart, and teased me most to death, I think I would have whipped them all if I could, but I was afraid; so that I guess I am only a half made gentleman." He enjoyed his own conceit in a hearty laugh.

In a few months after the conversation Ely appeared in Bedford with a clever horse, and a neat little wagon, well stored with an assortment of goods to suit the market he sought. He informed me that after the last trip, being an unusual time at home, his dogs became restive, and his neighbors blamed them for killing sheep. To suspect a dog of such an offence is to seal his doom, and Ely's dogs, guilty or not guilty, were executed *sans ceremonie*, without judge or jury. "Well," continued he, "I thought I must do something to get along; and I did not care much for the dogs no way they could fix it, for I was getting tired of them and thought I could do better if I had a large stock, and so I can do business on a large scale. I have laid in a good stock and can trade with any Yankee of them all, so I don't fear but I shall do well enough."

In a few months subsequent to Ely's appearance in Bedford with his wagon and horse, he was robbed on the Alleghany mountain of nearly five hundred dollars in money and merchandize.—Ely was a philosopher, however, and bore his loss with great equanimity.—He said he could do without it and make it up again, but he thought they were a pack of mean scamps to rob a poor cripple like him. The ruffians have never been apprehended nor the property recovered. About a year ago I saw Ely in Bedford, master of a fine pair of horses, and a large wagon well stored with merchandize, and he said he thought that would be his last trip—he was tired of peddling, and intended to sell his horses and set up a store of his own—that his mother was dead, and he had provided for his sister, and had money enough to go into business for himself.

Such is the history of Elias Fisher, the Dog Pedlar, and such will be the reward of every body who will try to do something for himself, "his poor old mother, and helpless sister."

NARROW ESCAPE.—The Chambersburg Repository of August 14, says: During the thunder gust on Thursday last, the lightning entered the shop in which the Locomotives are repaired, at the Rail Road Depot, without doing the least damage, except scattering the fire and coal on the hearth of the furnace and displacing a few bricks at the top of the chimney.—along which, it seems probable, it either descended or ascended, as there is a lightning-rod along side of the chimney inside of the building. Several hands were at work at the time in the shop, and distinctly saw the lightning flashing along on the earthen floor, and one of them was in the act of blowing the bellows at the hearth when the coal, &c., were scattered.

It appears from a letter of General Jesup that during the time he had the command in Florida the whole number of Indians and Negroes killed and taken was about two thousand four hundred. The expense of the war during this time is found, on a careful estimate, to be about \$20,000,000. From this, it seems, that the cost of killing and capturing each of these Indians and Negroes was a fraction more than \$8,333.33.—Rather expensive business.—*Balt. Chron.*

On Wednesday night the 8th inst., the building containing the fire wood for the use of Yale College, at New Haven, Connecticut, was consumed by fire, and had there been any wind would have caused the destruction of all the buildings attached to this venerable institution.—The Trumbull Gallery, College Hall, Laboratory, &c. were in great danger. The fire is supposed to have been caused by incendiaries.—*Alex. Gaz.*

NEWSPAPERS vs. DRINK.—"I positively never knew a man in the country who was too poor to take a newspaper. Yet two out of three, even respectable people, read no papers but what they borrow. As I speak generally, I hope I offend none. If I do—the greater the necessity to speak out. Every man is able conveniently to take a newspaper. How many who think themselves too poor to take a newspaper, pay four times as much daily for drink! Miserable man, thou art poor indeed."—*Benjamin Franklin.*

SIoux and CHIPPEWAS.—The Detroit Daily Advertiser of the 4th inst. mentions that a letter from Fort Snelling to a gentleman in that city, dated July 13th, states that the Chippewas and Sioux had a brush quite recently on the Chippewa river, which terminated in the death of one Sioux and five Chippewas. One of the latter was roasted and eaten by the former. The above letter also observes that a severe thunder storm occurred at Fort Snelling on the 9th, in which a man (name not given) was killed. The rain fell over five inches on the level.—*Alex. Gaz.*

The Army and Navy Chronicle mentions as a rumor, that the Ship of the Line Ohio is to be fitted out for the Mediterranean station under the command of Commodore Hull.

The Army and Navy Chronicle, speaking of the late appointment of Major Delfield to the superintendence of the Military Academy, says that Col. Thayer, who, it was generally understood, was to resume the command of that important post, for some reason not known, declined that duty. "There is no fear, however," says the Chronicle, "that it will degenerate under the new superintendant, who is himself a graduate of the Academy."—*Alex. Gaz.*

ENGLISH MONARCHS.—From the Norman conquest to the accession of Victoria, 770 years have elapsed, and 35 individuals have held the kingly office. All of these, with the exception of one individual, Oliver Cromwell, have been related to the Conqueror either by lineal or collateral descent. Out of the number, six have been murdered or died in prison, one was tried and executed, and another banished.

THE SAFEST PLACE FOR SPECIE.—The Miners (Pa.) Journal of Saturday, states that several hundred dollars have been recently brought in, and deposited in the Miners Bank at Pottsville—the owners remarking that since the Banks have resumed, and specie is again to be had when wanted, they "prefer depositing what they have in Banks, to watching it in their houses." This is a common sense view of the matter. The "hard money" is safe in the Banks, and it is not altogether safe in private dwellings.—*Balt. Pat.*

DINNER TO MR. BOND.—A public dinner was given at Chillicothe, Ohio, on the 11th inst. to the Hon. Wm. K. Bond, as a testimony on the part of his constituents to the signal faithfulness and efficiency of his services as representative in Congress. From the details of this friendly and social gathering which are given at length in the Scioto Gazette of the 16th, we perceive that it was a splendid affair. It was a meeting to do honor to a faithful public servant, who had returned home to give an account of his stewardship; and the attendance, and ceremonies, and cordialities, were such as could not but have touched the heart of the honored guest. Many distinguished men of the country were present, and others were invited who were unable to attend. Among the latter was the Hon. Henry Clay. His letter to the Committee of Arrangement, contained the following excellent sentiment:—

Bond's Speech.—If it fell on stony ground, and among thorns in the House of Representatives, among the people, it has fallen on good ground, and will bring forth an hundred fold.

The Salem Gazette says: When Mr. Adams visited his house at Quincy, for a few days, during his presidency, the blackguard Jackson prints advertised him as a runaway. But no Whig press retorts the vulgarity Mr. VAN BUREN encouraged, now that he has left his duties at Washington, to bury if he can, the mortification of his late defeats and disgrace amid the revelries of the Virginia Springs.

MAMMOTH PRODUCTIONS.—A musk melon has been grown near Charleston S. C. the present season which weighed 55 pounds, measured four feet three inches in circumference, six feet nine inches in length; and a whortleberry, has been presented to the editor of the Tiocha, Pa., Star, which measured two inches and one eighth in circumference.